

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 12-15 and 18-30 are pending in the present application. In the Final Office Action mailed October 13, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 9, 12-14, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujii et al. (USP 4,982,096) in view of Possin et al. (USP 5,430,298).

Claims 1-7, 15, 18-26, 28, and 29 were allowed. Claim 30 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Such indication is appreciated.

Accordingly, claim 30 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 8, and is therefore believed in condition for allowance. Original claim 8 has been canceled and claims 9, 12, 14, and 27 have been amended to depend from claim 30. There are no other outstanding rejections. Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-9, 12-15 and 18-30.

Applicant hereby authorizes charging of Deposit Account No. 07-0845 for any additional fees associated with entering the aforementioned claims.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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